

Message Text

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ACTION OES-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 EPA-01 H-01 AID-05
CEQ-01 CIAE-00 SOE-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08
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R 101436Z JUL 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1808
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
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AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SENV, ECE
SUBJECT: ECE - MEETING OF SPECIAL GROUP ON LOW WASTE
TECHNOLOGY (LWT)

REF: STATE 165377 NOTAL

1. SPECIAL GROUP ON LWT MET FROM JULY 5-7. PRINCIPAL
ACCOMPLISHMENTS WERE PREPARATION OF REQUEST TO MEMBER
GOVERNMENTS TO PROVIDE INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS IN
GENERAL AREA OF LWT AND ESTABLISHMENT OF SCHEDULE FOR
FUTURE WORK OF SPECIAL GROUP.

2. DEBATE ON CONTENTS OF QUESTIONNAIRE WAS DISAPPOINTING
AS NO PROGRESS WAS MADE ON DEFINING NEBULOUS CONCEPT
OF LWT AND ITS SUITABILITY AS TOPIC FOR HLM. QUESTION-
NAIRE CLOSELY PARALLELS POINTS ELABORATED IN REPORT
OF 33RD ECE PLENARY. US DELEGATION MADE POINT WE AS
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YET UNCONVINCED SUITABILITY THIS TOPIC AND SUBSTANTIAL
REFINEMENT REQUIRED TO MAKE LWT AN ACCEPTABLE TOPIC.
US DELEGATE MADE FOLLOWING SPECIFIC POINTS RE OUR
MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS ON THIS TOPIC:

A) PROPOSALS MUST BE RELEVANT TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
AND NOT PRIMARILY IN AREAS OF TRADE (LICENSES) OR

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (INFORMATION EXCHANGE).

B) THERE MUST BE INTERNATIONAL RATHER THAN NATIONAL FOCUS.

C) PROPOSALS MUST BE SUBSTANTIAL ITEMS FOR ACTION MORE APPROPRIATE TO A HLM THAN TO OTHER ECE MECHANISMS, OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS OR TO BILATERAL ARRANGEMENTS.

D) ALL PROPOSALS MUST BE AVAILABLE IN WRITING TO MEMBER GOVERNMENTS BY SEPTEMBER 7 TO PERMIT CONSIDERATION PRIOR TO NEXT SPECIAL GROUP MEETING ON OCTOBER 4-6.

IN CONCLUSION, US DELEGATE STATED THAT WE PREPARED TO PROPOSE AT NEXT SPECIAL GROUP MEETING THAT LWT BE STRICKEN FROM AGENDA OF A HLM IF OUR CRITERIA ARE NOT MET.

3. AGREED WORK PROGRAM IS THAT ECE SECRETARIAT WILL IMMEDIATELY DISTRIBUTE QUESTIONNAIRE TO MEMBER GOVERNMENTS AND REQUEST RESPONSES BY AUGUST 15. TO FACILITATE AND ACCELERATE WORK ON THIS TOPIC, EACH MEMBER GOVERNMENT WILL BE ASKED TO FORWARD COPY OF RESPONSE TO RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITIES IN OTHER MEMBER COUNTRIES AS WELL AS TO ECE SECRETARIAT. BUREAU OF THE SPECIAL GROUP (G. JAGODIN - USSR, P. PHILIP - FRANCE, M. SCHUBERT - GDR, AND T. PALME - SWEDEN) WILL MEET ON SEPTEMBER 7-8 TO PREPARE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SYNTHESIS OF RESPONSES WHICH WILL BE CONSIDERED AT NEXT SPECIAL GROUP MEETING ON OCTOBER 4-6. SPECIAL GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS WILL THEN BE PRESENTED TO SAEP AT THEIR OCTOBER 11-13 MEET.

4. GENERAL TONE OF MEETING WAS LOW KEY AND ORDERLY. SOVIETS OBVIOUSLY WANT THIS TOPIC INCLUDED AT A HLM. THEY PLAYED PASSIVE ROLE AND REGISTERED NO SERIOUS RESERVATIONS ON ANY PROPOSALS. SWEDISH ENVIRONMENT MINISTER HAS TAKEN SPECIAL INTEREST IN THIS TOPIC, AND THEIR SIX-MAN DELEGATION TOOK ACTIVE ROLE IN TRYING TO DEFINE LWT AS A TOPIC ACCEPTABLE TO ALL. HEAD OF SWEDISH DELEGATION (U. SVENSSON) INFORMED US DELEGATE THAT THEIR SUBMISSION WOULD ACCOMMODATE ALL US REQUIREMENTS AS OUTLINED IN PARA TWO ABOVE. EC-9 AND NORDICS, OTHER THAN SWEDEN, PLAYED MINIMAL ROLE AND SEVERAL OF THEM THANKED US DELEGATION FOR TAKING INITIATIVE TO GENERATE SERIOUS THOUGHT ON LWT AS TOPIC FOR A HLM. THIS DOES NOT IMPLY A CONSENSUS FOR DROPPING TOPIC; CONSENSUS IS FOR BETTER DEFINITION OF LWT AND CONSIDERABLE ADDITIONAL THOUGHT AS TO HOW IT SHOULD BE HANDLED AT A HLM.

5. MISSION BELIEVES PROFESSOR LONG WAS EXCELLENT CHOICE
TO HEAD US DELEGATION AND HOPE HE CAN BE INCLUDED IN ANY
FUTURE DELEGATIONS WHEN LWT IS BEING CONSIDERED.
VANDEN HEUVEL

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